

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 9, 15, 19 and 20 are amended. Amended claims 1 and 15 include some of the allowable subject matter of claims 9 and 20, respectively. No new matter is added. Reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Entry of the amendment is requested under 37 CFR § 1.116 because the amendment: a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; c) do not present any additional claims without canceling the corresponding number of final rejected claims; and d) place the application in better form for appeal, if an appeal is necessary. Entry of the amendment is thus respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter found in claims 8, 9, 19 and 20. Accordingly, claims 1 and 15 have been amended to include some of the allowable subject matter found in claims 9 and 20, respectively. Thus, claims 1-22 are now in condition for allowance. Favorable allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7, 10-18, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) as being anticipated by Shlomot, USP 6,377,931. Applicants submit that the rejection has been rendered moot as independent claims 1 and 15 have been amended to include some of the allowable subject matter found in claims 9 and 20, respectively.

Claims 2-7, 10-14, 16-18 and 21 and 22 are also allowable by virtue of their dependency on either independent claims 1 or 15, and for the features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

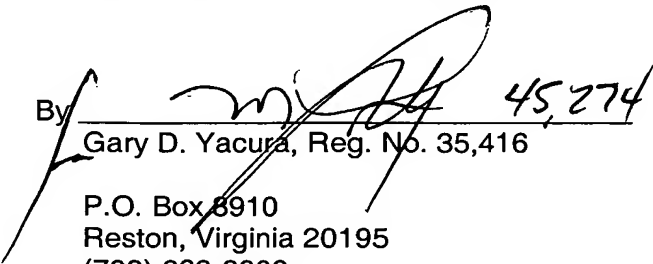
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-22 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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